

ABSTRACT

THESIS: Sources of Social Integration in Sorority Women Who Live in Residence Halls

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PAGES: 86

College students find belonging at institutions in multiple ways. For college women, the relationships they form through their involvements are important in their social integration. The purpose of this study was to gain a better understanding of the social integration experiences of sorority women who live in residence halls. This study was grounded in qualitative, phenomenological methodology. Data were gathered through semi-structured interviews with sorority women living in the residence halls who were at least sophomores.

The researcher found sorority women had positive experiences of community and enriched relationship opportunities through their involvement in their sororities and residence halls. The women studied referenced the few relationships they made with the other people who lived near them in the residence hall. While these relationships were important to them, they were not as important as the relationships formed with their sisters in their sorority. Sisterhood provides a deeper, more meaningful connection shared through the bond of ritual and tradition. Implications for practice and suggestions for future research were also suggested.